

REMARKS

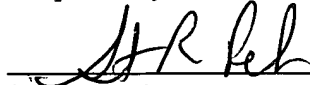
In the May 11, 2004 office action, the examiner indicate that claim 20 is allowable, and rejected claims 21-28 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 103. The present amendment cancels claims 21-28, and presents new claims 29-45. The newly presented claims are supported in the disclosure and are patentable for the following reasons.

Step d in claim 20 is stated in the alternative. New claims 29 and 33, which dependent on claim 20, each specify one of the alternatives for step d. Claims 30-32 and 34-36 depend on claims 29 and 33, respectively; claims 30 and 34 are supported in the specification at page 12 line 29 - page 13 line 4, and claims 31-32 and 35-36 contain limitations present, e.g., in claims 11 and 12 of the parent application. Claim 37, dependent on claim 20, contains limitations corresponding to steps b and c of claim 1 of the parent application.

Claims 38 and 42 are directed to apparatus for performing the methods of claims 29 and 33, respectively. The limitations of claims 39-41 and 43-45 correspond to the limitations of claims 30-32.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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